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Editorial Notes

Let the churches organize their home mission work and support it well. And let every Christian, man and woman, do what their hands find to do.

During the last fiscal year, our Assembly's Home Mission Committee received over ninety thousand dollars. Add to this the money raised for local Home Missions, and we have a very encouraging showing for home mission work.

The Foreign Mission receipts for the fiscal year have been upwards of \$400,000—exceeding the standard set by our last General Assembly. In this we recognize the valuable help of the Laymen's Missionary Movement.

But there is one fact which is more encouraging still. It is the large number of accessions on profession of faith. In this country the average of conversions is about five per cent of the membership. On the mission field at large the conversions are about twelve per cent. In the mission churches under the care of our General Assembly the ratio is nearly twenty-five per cent. For this let God be thanked.

An exchange well says, "Only ignoramus 'snort' every time 'doctrine' is mentioned." Intelligent people know that doctrine is the basis of everything. Doing follows believing. And believing implies to be taught, that is, doctrine.

The special point at which evolution attacks religion is in its substitution of naturalism for supernaturalism. If evolution be true as to faith, the Scriptures, the new life, redemption, then the best that religion can do, or that God can do, for the human soul, is to hasten, in a small way, by affording a favorable environment, a process which would eventually produce its own results. There is no real need for a divine Savior, an inspired Bible, the work of the Holy Spirit, a scheme of grace. The best that God can do is to hurry up the result just a little.

In Tennessee, the Supreme Court has rendered a decision in the litigation over the church property of the Cumberland Presbyterians, in favor of those who refused to unite with the Northern Presbyterian Church.

But in half a dozen other states, in which there was litigation over property of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, the Supreme Courts have decided that the action of the Cumberland General Assembly, forming a union with the Northern Presbyterian Church, controls the title to the property of each congregation—except in cases where the title deed contains some "expressed trust or limitation." It is well that every congregation in every Church take notice of these decisions, and define the use of their property.

By reason of these decisions all the legal title to Cumberland churches and manses and schools passes to the Northern Presbyterian Church. But so long as a large proportion of the membership remain unwilling to go into that Church, Christian love as well as a spirit of equity would leave to them a due share of this property. We hope yet to see such action by those who are victorious in the courts.

Do we ever fully realize the religious destitutions of the far West? We have just read of the appointment of a Presbyterian minister to serve one county in Oregon. But that county is larger than the state of Rhode Island or Delaware, and he is the only Christian worker of any denomination within its bounds. Like destitutions exist elsewhere. Would that the home mission treasuries were better supplied with funds!

Rev. Dr. John Benjamin Drury, for more than twenty years the editor-in-chief of the "Christian Intelligencer," the organ of the Reformed Church in America, died at his home in New Brunswick, New Jersey, on March 21. The news of this death brings grief to all who have admired the ability, soundness, and charitableness of spirit which Dr. Drury possessed and which have for so many years shaped the paper and made it so strong a bulwark of the faith.

It is with great satisfaction that we read again and again of the triumphs of the gospel. The Chapman evangelists in Richmond, in Boston and in Springfield, preached the same evangel, the doctrines of grace, sin, its guilt and doom, salvation by a Divine Saviour and his atoning death, that have been the power of God unto salvation. Many thousands have heard with a great hunger and believed, to a new hope and a new life. Torrey and Gipsy Smith and Sunday have preached the same message, and men of all classes have felt its power. The largest result is that a great company of ministers have been brought back to preaching the everlasting gospel with a new faith and with demonstration of the Spirit and with power.